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RENEWED LAKE TO COVER 100 ACRES

Smithville Flats – The Cincinnatus Lake Small Watershed Protection District is in the process of being enlarged and, when completed, Cincinnatus Lake will be restored to its original size of slightly more than 100 acres of recreational water.

A disastrous flood in 1935 raised the level of the body of water, partly in Chenango County and partly in Cortland County, to a point where the water skirted around the old dam. The result was the water level was nearly exhausted at the lower part of the lake.

The dam was located at the lower, or southern, end of the lake and as a result of the loss of water, more than half of the area was left with only a dry lake bed that quickly began to fill in with weeds.

As a result of the flood, the water acreage presently is covering only 35 to 40 acres of the original tract. Work that is being done will restore the lake to its pre-flood acreage. The lone exception will be that the water level is expected to be four inches lower than it was before the flood.

Workmen figure that the depth of the lake will range between 12 and 20 feet and will complete a recreation facility benefitting at least 20 campsites. It is also figured that the completion of the construction will open vacant land on both sides of the planned lake addition.

This land presently is sitting dormant, and it is expected that the pasture-type acreage suddenly will become a valuable piece of property, available to prospective camp owners.

A contract for the construction of the 20-foot-high dam was let recently to Hall & Stern Construction Co. of Cortland. The firm submitted a low bid of \$64,332.

Work will include the clean-up of the old damsite, leveling of the area and the hauling in of truckload after truckload of earthen fill to construct a new dam. The new structure will be built in about the same spot as the old dam.



The area presently is being cleared with construction machinery and earth fill is being deposited in areas where it will be required. Workmen hope that within two weeks, weather permitting, they will begin laying the concrete piping for the dam.

Work has been under way for two weeks at the site two miles northwest of Smithville Flats, and it is expected that the construction either will be completed this fall or early next spring. Workmen expect that, barring unforeseen complications, the schedule can be completed in the next eight weeks.

Campsite owners in the area are optimistic that the construction will be completed this year and definite plans are under way to have the recreation site in operation by next summer.

The lake throughout the years has been noted for its great fishing possibilities.

The new dam also is expected to be used as a flood protection dam by the camp-owners in the area.

Robert Beach, chairman of the district, reported that volunteers from the area would start clearing the dry part of the lakebed in the near future. He said that this process is expected to be by unpaid help and probably will be undertaken by area site-owners whom the lake is going to benefit the most.

Located in the Genganslet [sic] Watershed District, the lake has been the subject of area conversation regarding its return to normal acreage for the past 32 years. It has been only in the last four years that actual progress has been made on the construction plans.

Mr. Beach reported that the work is being done with the assistance of federal and Chenango County aid. It is also noted that nearly half of the money needed for the project has come from area landowners.

The county appropriation of \$10,000 was obtained for easements and rights-of-way required for the actual construction of the dam. It was approved at the June meeting of the Chenango County Board of Supervisors.

Appropriation was approved after it was noted that the completed work would be a direct benefit to the Town of Smithville and Chenango County by placing several properties back on the tax rolls.